



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

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Former Police Officer Gets Prison Sentence for Selling Stolen Firearms

United States Attorney David E. O'Meilia announced that a former police officer was sentenced to prison today in federal court in Tulsa for selling stolen police department firearms and ammunition over the internet.

Buddy Visser, age 47, formerly an officer and firearms instructor with the Tulsa Police Department, was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment on each of two counts to run concurrently and to pay restitution of \$15,988. He will begin serving his prison sentence on July 29. Upon release from prison he will serve a three year period of supervision.

Visser had earlier pled guilty on March 18, 2008, to Possession or Sale of Stolen Firearms & Ammunition and a second count of Mail Fraud & Deprivation of Honest Services. The charges were contained in an Information filed on March 5, 2008. Visser admitted that between January and November 2007, he possessed and sold at least eight, but less than twenty-four, firearms and multiple cases of ammunition that he had stolen from the police department firearms training range. Furthermore, he admitted that he sold and offered to sell the stolen firearms and ammunition on the internet website of Gunbroker.com, utilizing his personal email address of oneshotX@aol.com to communicate with interested persons. Visser used the U.S. Postal Service and UPS to ship the stolen guns and ammunition to various parties. He then deposited the money orders he received as payment into his checking account at the TPD Fraternal Order of Police Credit Union in Tulsa.

United States Attorney O'Meilia stated: "This case and other recent federal public corruption prosecutions in the Northern District reflect the continuing commitment of my office, the federal investigative agencies and the Tulsa Police Department to root out, expose and bring to justice corrupt public servants, including those working within law enforcement. Our citizens and communities expect and deserve to be served by only the most honest public officials and we will continue to hold them to the highest standards of conduct."

U.S. District Judge Terence Kern presided in the case. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Robert T. Raley and Joseph F. Wilson handled the case for the government. The investigation was undertaken by the Tulsa Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.